Killing of army jawans by Assam Police

2344. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two army jawans were killed on January 6-7/2005 by personnel of Assam Police at Khongia village in Dibrugarh district of Assam;

(b) the details of the incident, that had led to such killing of army jawans; and

(c) the action taken, if any, against persons responsible for the incident as well as the killer policemen?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 1 Major and 1 Sepoy were killed during an operation on 6th January, 2005, due to firing by the personnel of Assam Police, in Khongia village in Dibrugarh District. The firing by Assam Police appears to be due to a case of mistaken identity.

(c) A magisterial inquiry by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Dibrugarh, and a Court of Inquiry by Army in this regard have been ordered.

Streamlining procedures for purchase of arms

2345. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the present procedure is very difficult to stick to time schedule in the arms purchases;

(b) if so, whether government is going to bring new streamlined procedures for speedier purchases of hi-tech weapon system for the armed forces;

(c) if so, the details in this regard; and

(d) the time by when it would come into force?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) The Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) 2002 (Version June 2003) is followed for procurement of Defence equipment. The procedure lays down the steps that are required to be followed for the procurement of equipment and weapons. Procurement of Defence equipment by its very nature is a complex and intricate process. The Government constantly endeavour to expedite and accelerate the acquisition process. But in certain